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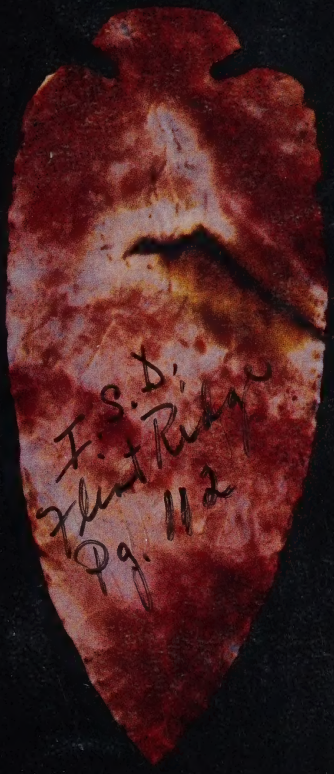
PREHISTORIC ART

DOVETAILS



SPECIALIZED ISSUE — VOLUME XV — NUMBERS THREE & FOUR 1980

ARCHAEOLOGY "80"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.

COVER PHOTO
HOOKS DOVE

The Hooks Dove was found by a fisherman in Madison County, Ohio in 1974. It was found beneath flood water along Deer Creek near Lake Choctaw in the vicinity of Sommerford, Ohio north of London, Ohio. Hooks Dove was first featured in color on the cover of OHIO ARCHAEOLOGIST, Vol. 28, No. 2, in 1978. It was listed as one of the most outstanding dovetail discoveries. It had been collected by Jack Hooks of Mansfield, Ohio and was proclaimed by many Ohio collectors as the finest Ohio dovetail ever found. For lack of a specific name it became known and talked about as the "Hooks Dove." The fishing hole was supposed to be kept secret so in the OHIO ARCHAEOLOGIST the provenience was given as Richland County, Ohio, Jack Hooks' home county. Research and information sent in for WHO'S WHO #5, list it as Franklin County. In fact, it was found in Madison County, Ohio and the Franklin County information was the result of a misread map. It was pictured in color as the first relic page, page 9, of WHO'S WHO #5. A black and white photo and the true provenience finally got into print in PREHISTORIC ART — ARCHAEOLOGY "80", PREHISTORIC ART CLASSICS II. It is the largest known superiorly worked projectile of red flintridge chalcedony. Hooks Dove is five inches long, finely made with an absolutely perfect point, base, and base tips. There are no new chips anyplace. It is the classic Ohio-type dovetail shape and is truly prehistoric art at its finest.

DOVETAILS
SPECIALIZED ISSUE
VOLUME XV NUMBERS THREE AND FOUR 1980

PREHISTORIC ART - ARCHAEOLOGY "80"

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GENUINE INDIAN RELIC SOCIETY, INC.
FOUNDED IN 1964

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DOVETAILS

John Baldwin — West Olive, Michigan

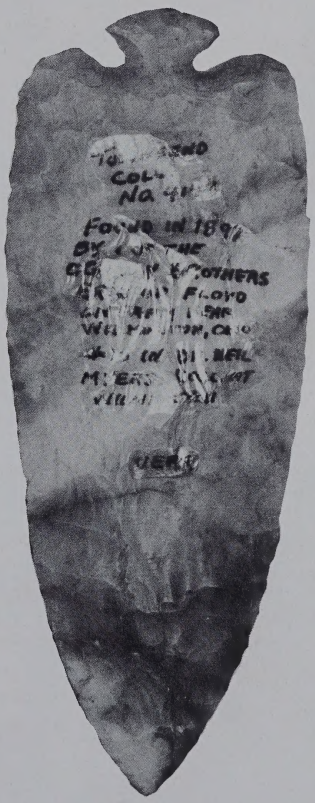
The idea: Create a journal containing as much information and as many photographs of dovetails as possible. Display the material in an educating format that will be used for study purposes and personal enjoyment. The results of that idea: this issue, "Dovetails," a specialized issue of PREHISTORIC ART — ARCHAEOLOGY "80", Vol. XV, Numbers 3 and 4, 1980.

Three and one-half years ago the Genuine Indian Relic Society's officers and board of directors gave approval to the idea of ending each year with a specialized issue. The popularity of dovetails as a collectable artform will make this treatise one of our most popular journals. This idea was readily received by prominent collectors who opened heretofore closed doors and allowed us to photograph their dovetails. Gordon Hart, others and I have spent the last three and one-half years photographing the authentic prominent dovetails of the midwest. During that time we acquired photographs of over 1000 dovetails. Sixty pages allowed us to display 500 dovetails. We selectively picked classic and typical examples. We acquired the unprecedented opportunity while photographing, to handle and personally examine each dove photographed. This was not only enjoyable but necessary from an editorial credibility standpoint. Many of the photographed doves are old known relics. Some we were seeing for the first time and personal examination assured that each dove used as an example was authentic. We also eliminated doves that were excessively restored or rechipped.

The faking of dovetails today is big business. Many known flintknappers are reproducing dovetails at a higher quantity each year. The popularity of the dovetail has made it the most commonly reproduced flint in years past and I predict moreso in the future. Older fakes tend to be large and flashy. The new crop is smaller, more close to detail and more finely made. I mentioned earlier that the majority of the doves used in this journal are old known specimens, all of which were personally examined by more than one authority before being pictured here. I warn editors of the future to parallel this method of caution at minimum. We were and are reluctant to publish a photograph full of dovetails or any flint without either knowing its history of having personal examination of the material by several known authorities. Currently, white doves are most commonly faked, followed by gray and brown examples. A crop of colored Illinois-Missouri flint in rainbow colors has been produced. Old time Illinois-Missouri-type dovetail collections contain very few, if any, colored doves of that type. The Ohio-type dove in flintridge material has not been faked in any large quantity yet. The current fraudulent problems with this type are rechipping, fakes made from broken blades and remade from broken doves. A few six-to-eight inch Ohio-type material fakes are known, some of which claim old histories. We suggest several remedies to the "fake" problem. Study, of course, is the first suggestion, or solicit the knowledge of a respected authority, have only to do with known dovetails with traceable reliable histories, and last but probably most important for the future, is *document* and *authenticate*.

Pages 98, 100, and 102 feature the three most common and recognizable dovetail types. We surely didn't need to do dove drawings to feature more dovetails. The drawings are an assemblage of the common shape variation of that type. They are accompanied by a photograph displaying actual examples of that type's variations. Each of the three types — Indiana-Kentucky type, Illinois-Missouri type and Ohio type are photos featured at random throughout the remaining pages.

Page 88, "Dovetail Information," contains the currently accepted facts about this point type. We find there is a lot we do not know about the dovetail's age and cultural affiliation. We can hopefully look to the future for more information in the unanswered areas. The dovetail as a recognized artform appears to be its destiny. More and more we see examples possessing all the classic traits, size, color and workmanship commanding more attention. In a prehistoric world the dovetail as a functional artform was perfect. Today as an artform the specimen that possesses it all can be only one thing — perfect.



PIKE CO
ILL.

DOVETAIL INFORMATION

John Baldwin — West Olive, Michigan

The dovetail point has been named by collectors from the midwest. Its fanned or crescent base is similar to the tail of the dove.

Description

The dovetail is most commonly represented by a large, narrow, ovate blade with narrow corner notches. This point type displays excellent workmanship. It ranges in length from 3 to 6 inches averaging 1½ inches wide. The body is generally ovate; the base is convex but not as wide as the maximum width of the blade in most cases. The notches are narrow corner notches projecting diagonally inward. Examples of notches occur from square shoulder wide notches through to high angle notches. Notch width ranges from narrow, well executed slits to wide notching. The stem has a convex base which has been ground smooth along the convex edge. The dovetail is further characterized by convex edges which converge to form a rather rounded tip.

Distribution

The dovetail is widely distributed throughout the midwest. It is most common throughout the Ohio Valley and westward into Missouri. It is also found in the surrounding states such as Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Arkansas and Tennessee.

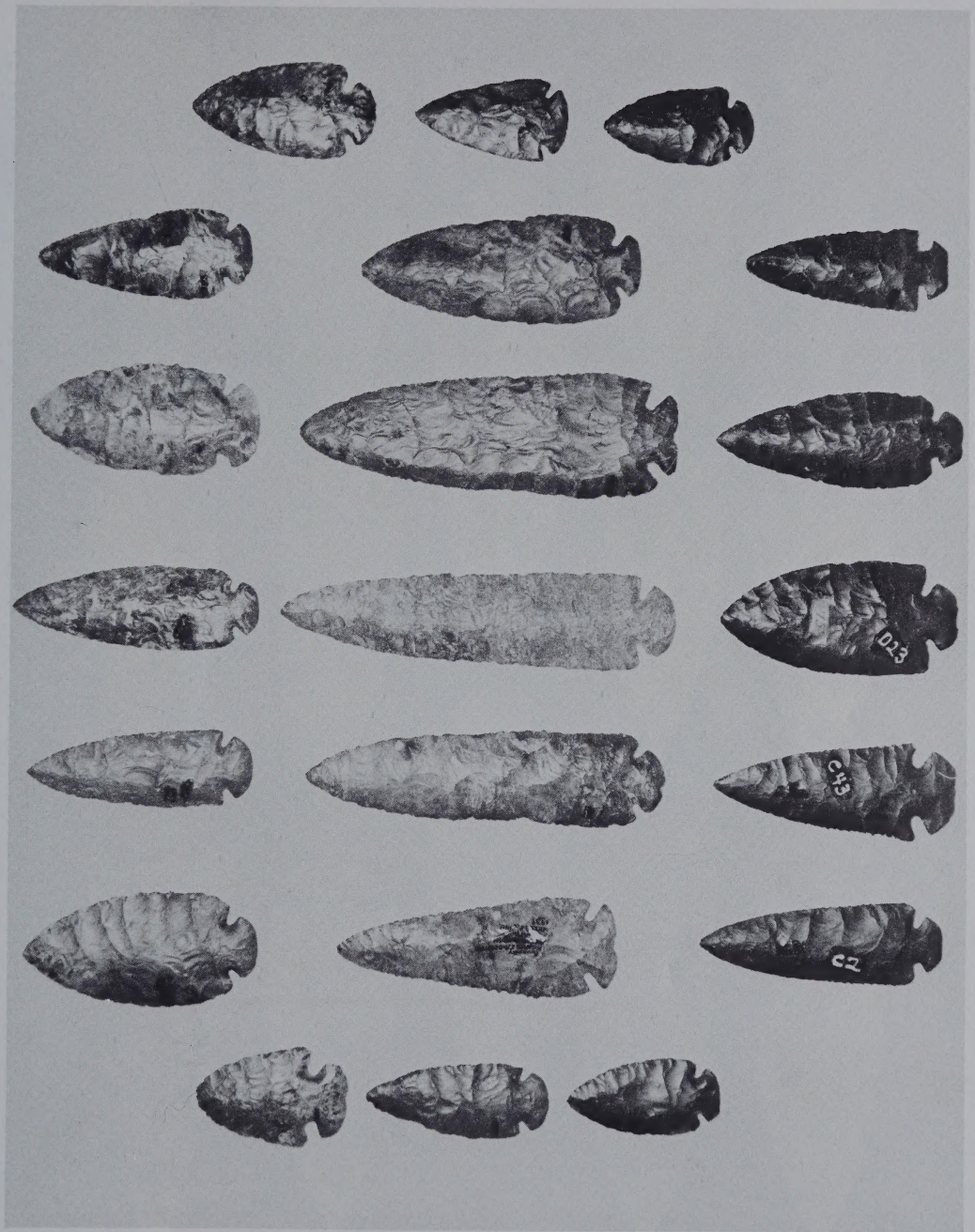
Age and Cultural Affiliation

The age of the dovetail has not been clearly established. It is generally assigned to the late Archaic and Early Woodland periods. This age placement is currently most readily accepted. Some unconfirmed studies have the dovetail as old a Paleo and as new as Hopewell.

Remarks

Geographical area and material seems to have had an influence in the dovetails' characteristics. These differences are great enough to establish three categories. The differences are first recognized by their material white, Illinois-Missouri type, gray-brown, Indiana-Kentucky type and Ohio material, Ohio type. Further examination of these three types is on pages 98, 100 and 102.

The dovetails pictured on these two pages were assembled by Dr. Rollin Bunch of Muncie, Indiana. Dr. Bunch as long passed our world and the doves have scattered into many newer collections. The assemblage of these beautiful artforms will be admired and these photographs will perpetuate the accomplishment of this collection forever.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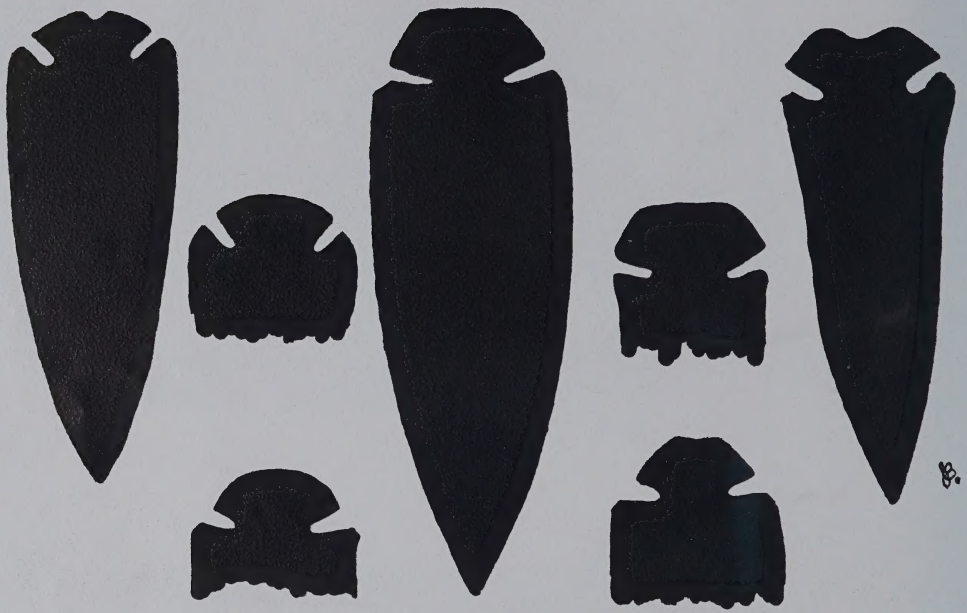
INDIANA-KENTUCKY TYPE

GRAY, TAN AND BROWN MATERIAL



The concentration of this dovetail type centers around southern Indiana. The material used in its creation were the gray, tan, brown and gray-green flint of that area.

The typical classic shape is illustrated by the center drawing. The left drawing features the type that has a notch placed in the center of the base. This notch is usually made with only one flake. The right drawing represents a beveled edge type with the center dip in the base top.

The four base shape drawings represent common variations of bases. These base shapes could occur on any of the blade shapes.

Page 99 features Indiana-Kentucky dovetails in gray and brown. The bottom row features the common shapes of this type.

ILLINOIS-MISSOURI TYPE

WHITE AND LIGHT TAN MATERIAL

The concentration of this dovetail type centers in central southern Illinois and Missouri into eastern Iowa. The materials used in its creation were the Illinois-Missouri white flints and off-white and tan cherts.

The typical classic shape is illustrated by the drawing on the right. The left illustration drawing represents the flared blade type. The curved edges are a trait that could occur with any base shape.

The six base shape drawings represent the common base types. These shapes could occur on either blade shape.

Page 101 features Illinois-Missouri type dovetails in white and light tan. All the typical shapes are represented in this photograph.

OHIO TYPE

OHIO FLINT AND FLINTRIDGE OF ALL COLORS

The concentration of this dovetail type centers around central southern Ohio. The materials used in its creation were the various Ohio flints and cherts and Ohio flintridge chalcedony.

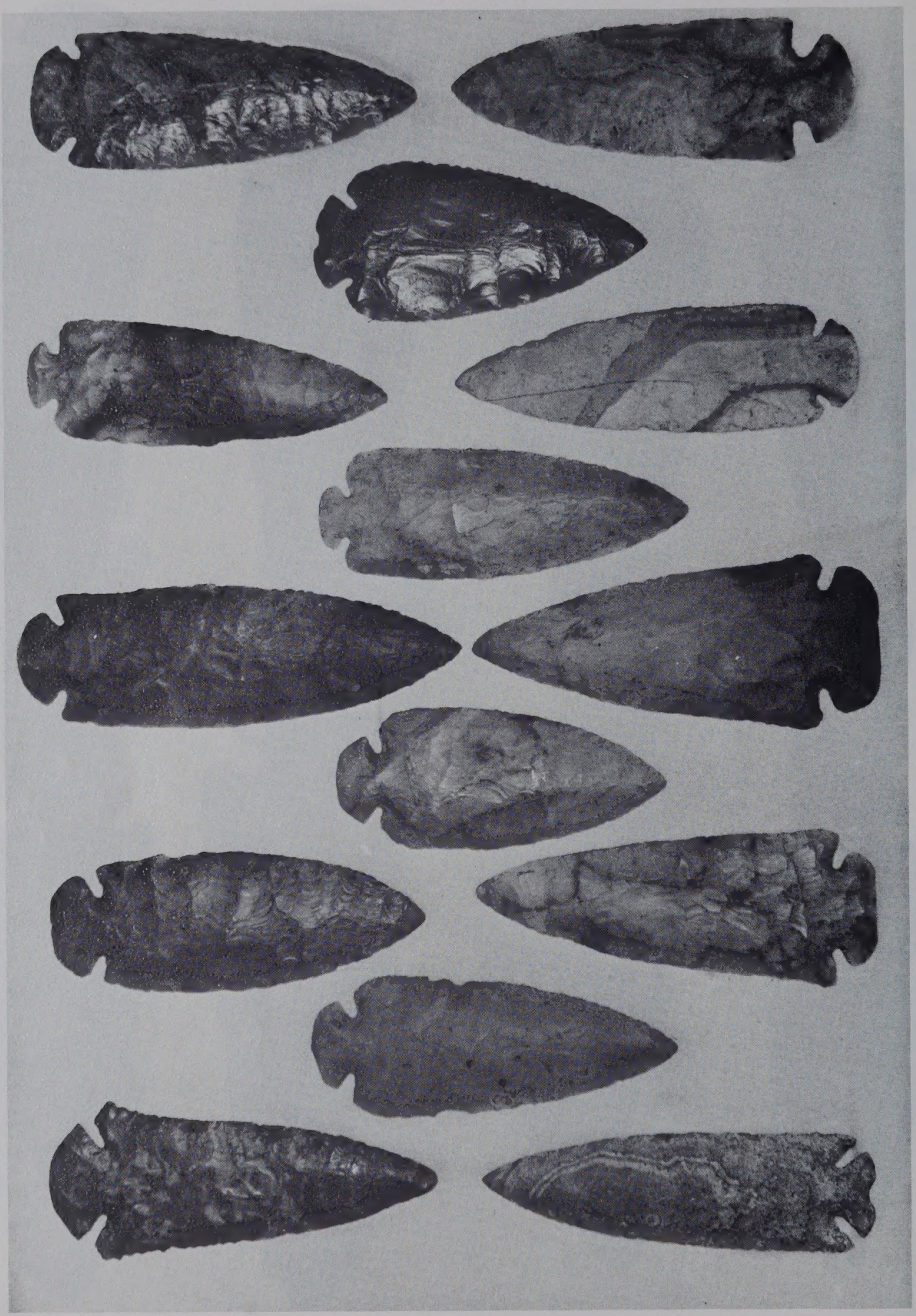
The typical classic shape is illustrated by the center drawing. The drawing at the right represents the wide base dovetail perhaps equally as common as the classic small base dove. The drawing at the left is the small base narrow blade type.

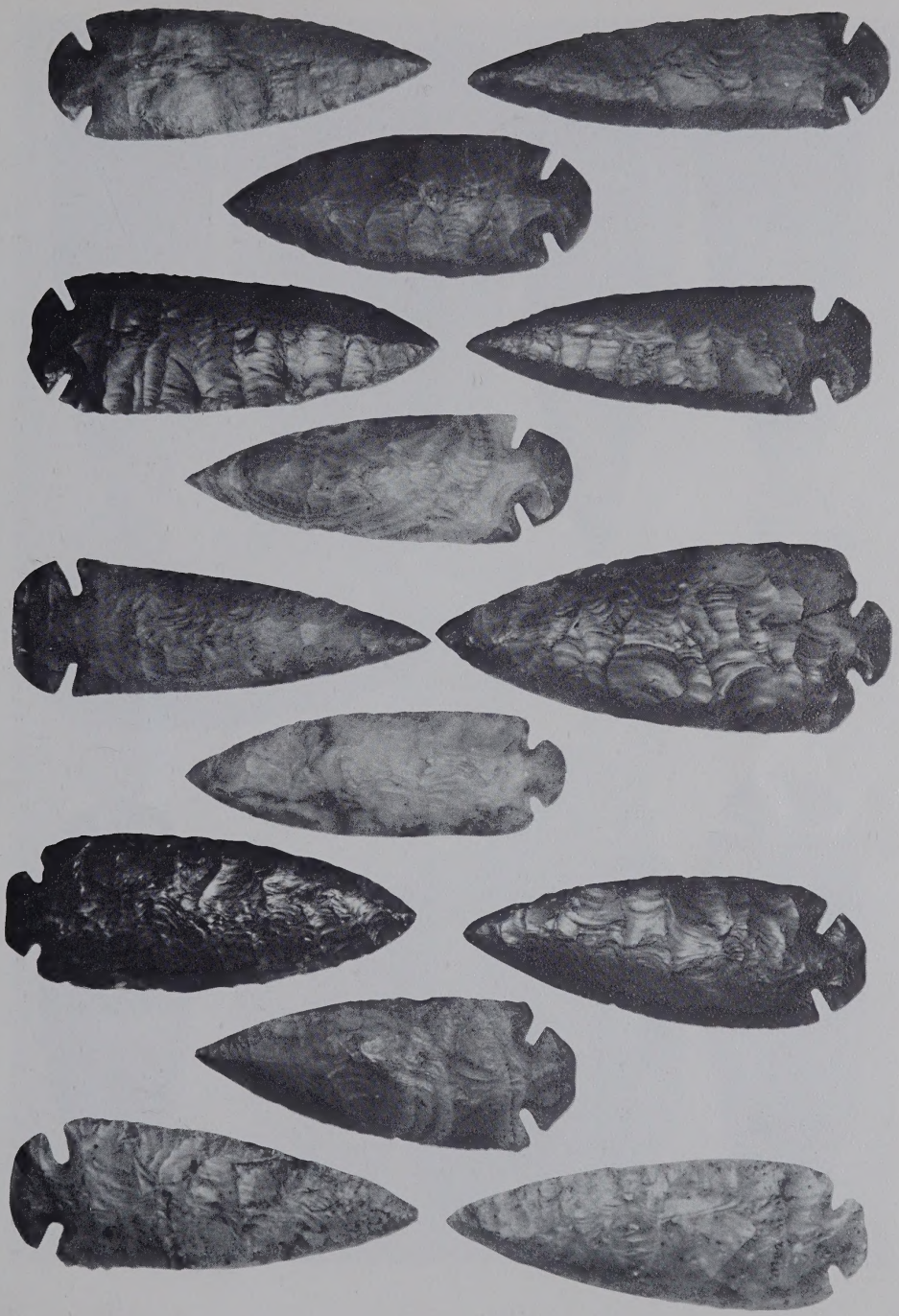
The four base shape drawings represent common variations of bases. These base shapes could occur on any of the blade shapes.

Page 103 features the four most common Ohio dovetail types.

C3
B25
C44
D54

D24
R
R





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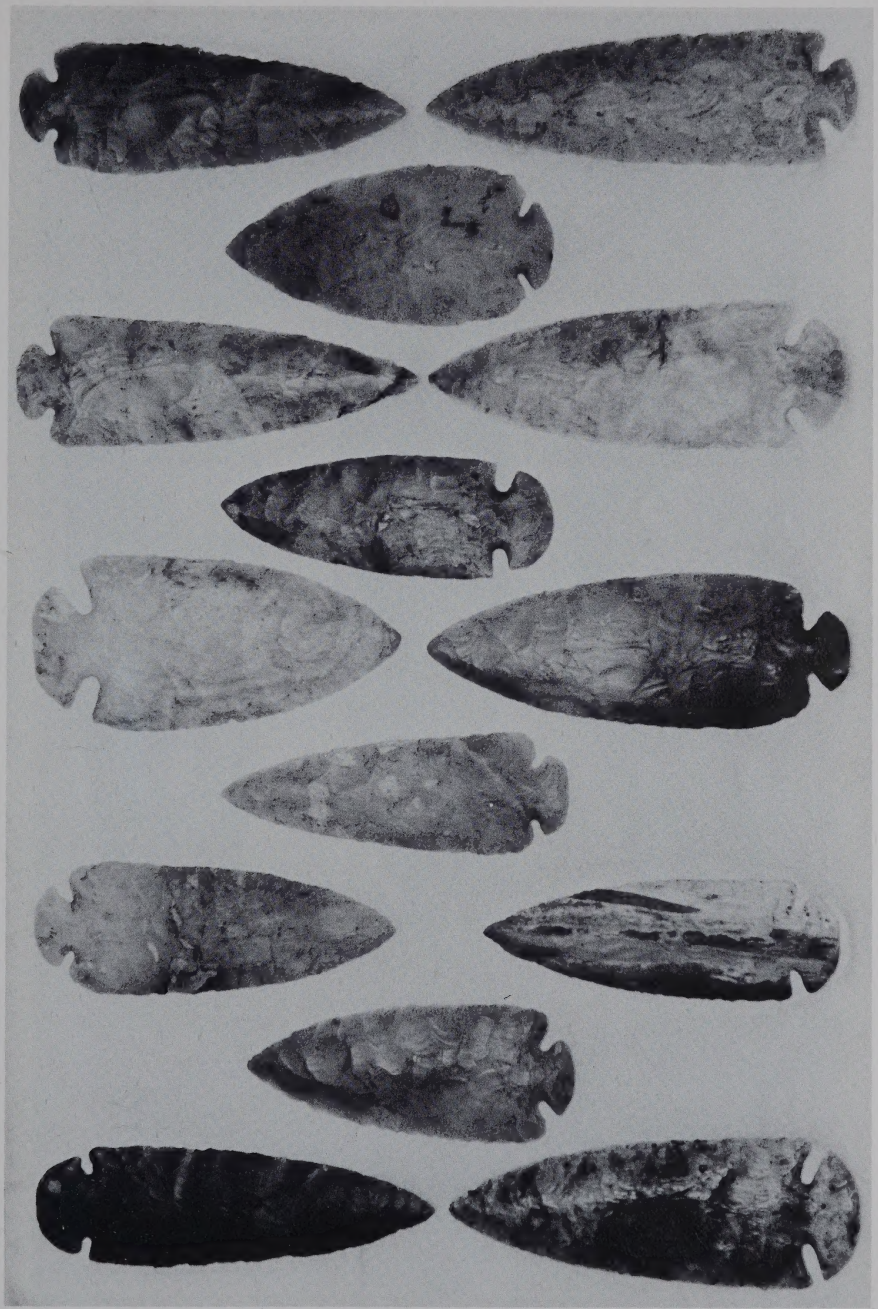

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PIKE
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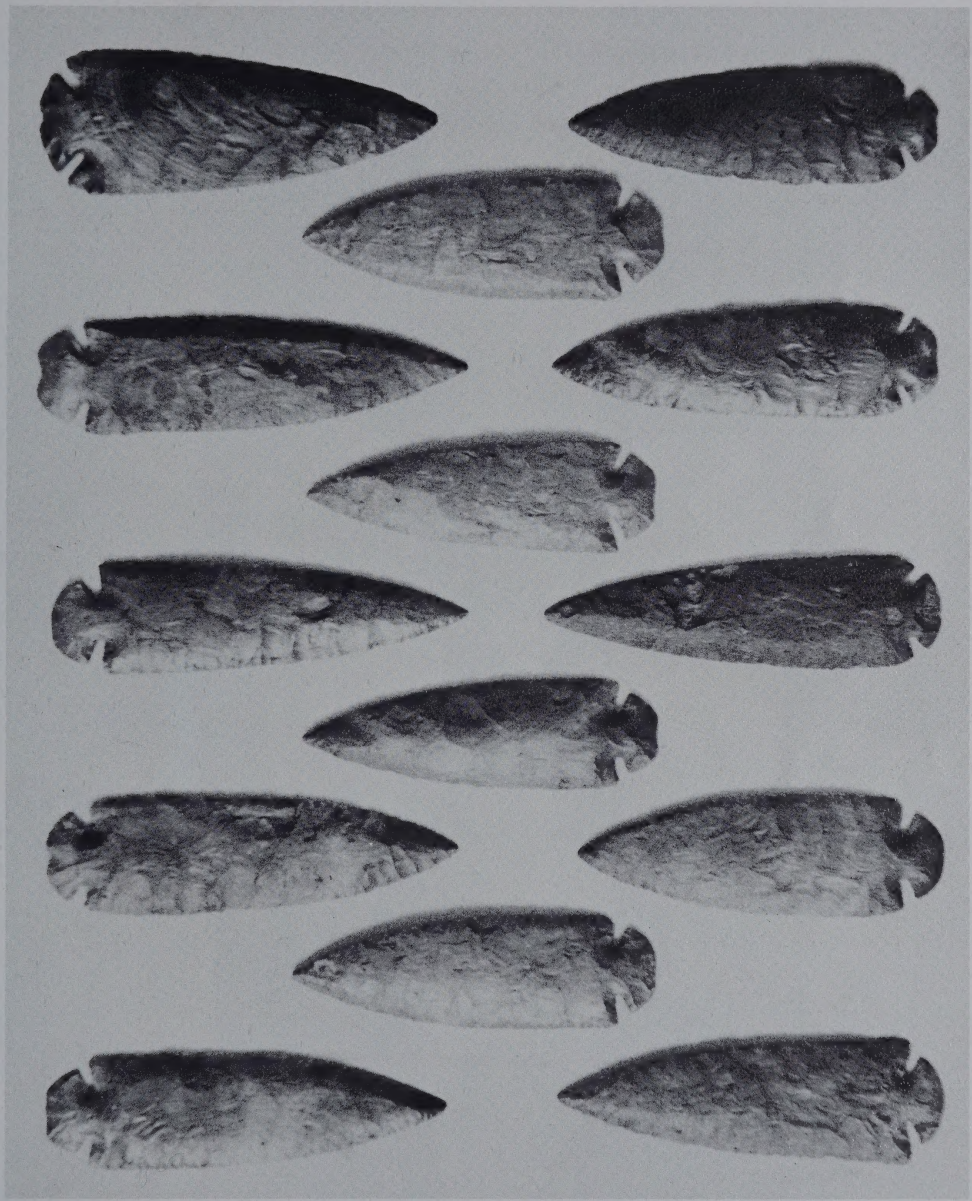
PALES



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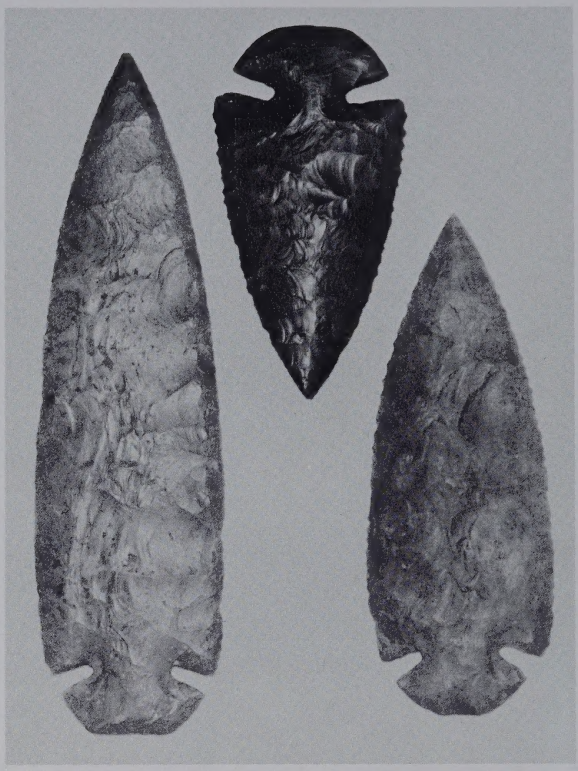

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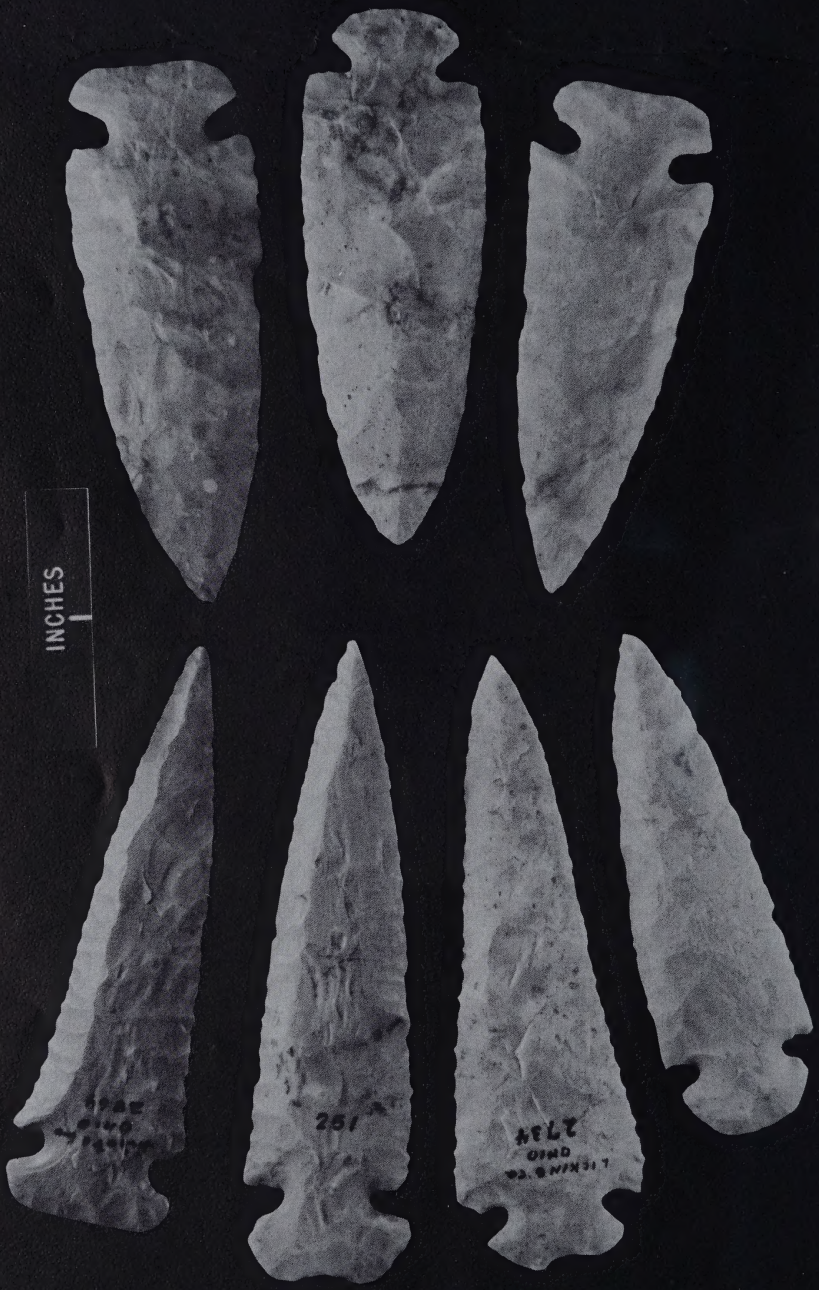
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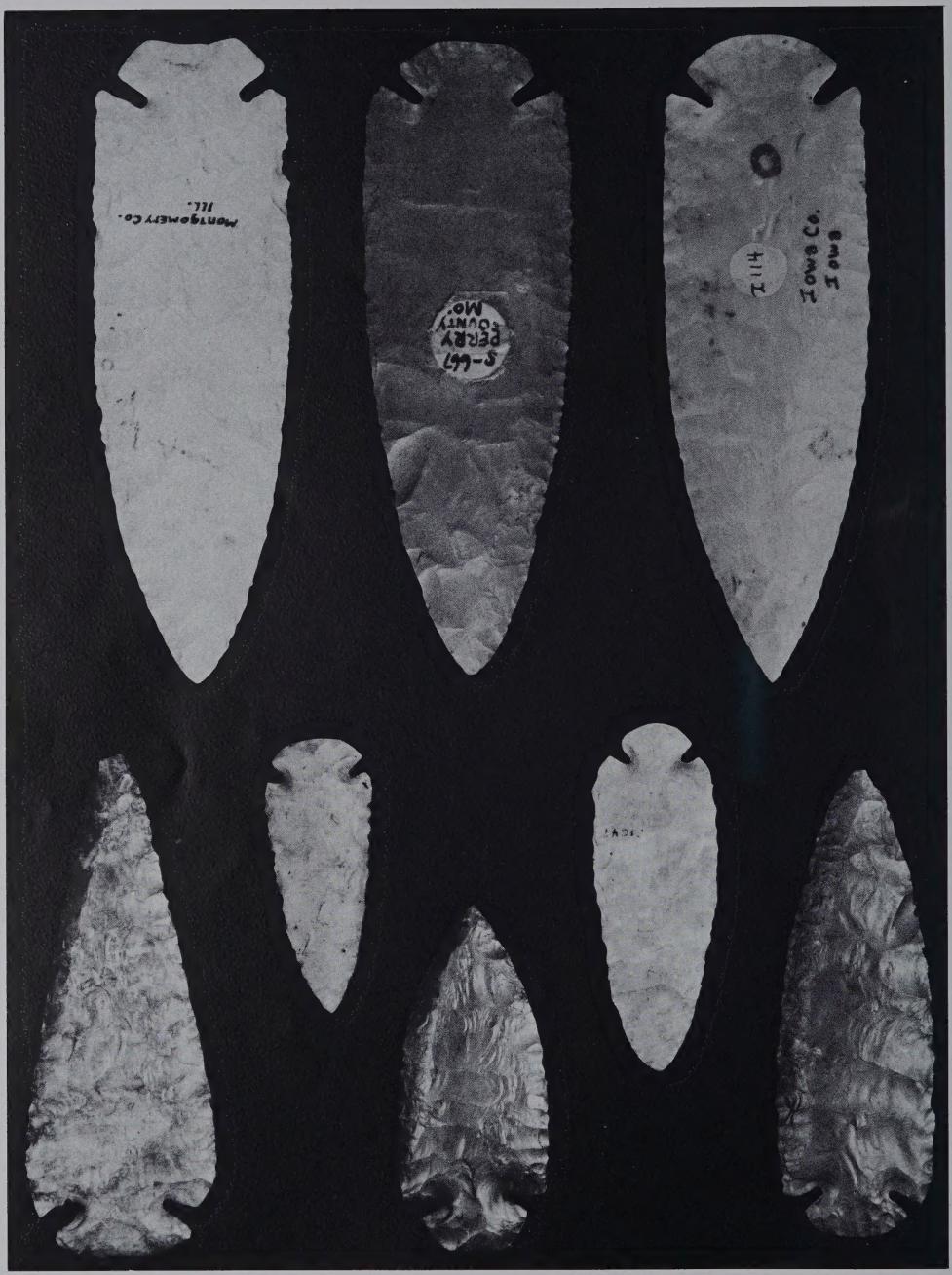
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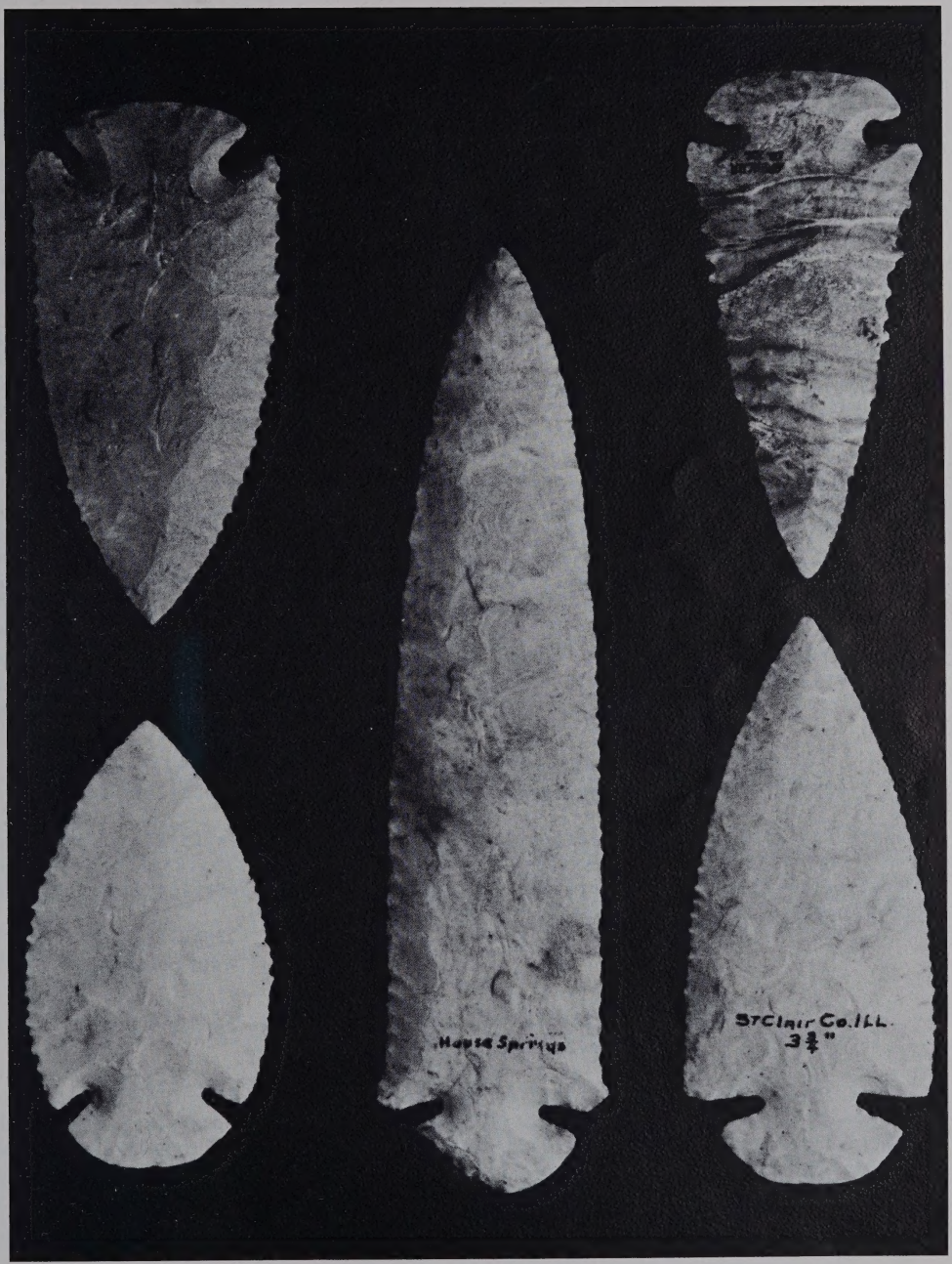
St Clair Co. ILL.
3 3/4"

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Clemens Caldwell ..... Danville, Kentucky
Meyers Campbell ..... Mingo Junction, Ohio
George Carter ..... Haskenville, Kentucky
Bill Crane ..... Indiana
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Frank Otto ..... Columbus, Ohio
Floyd Ritter ..... Collinsville, Illinois
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Jan Sorgenfrei ..... Lima, Ohio
John Steimle ..... EauClair, Michigan
Ben Thompson ..... Kirkwood, Missouri
Earl Townsend ..... Indianapolis, Indiana

SPECIALIZED ISSUE NOTICE

The specialized issue for 1981 currently has several possibilities. A birdstone issue has long been in the works. We still need photographs of non-pictured birdstones to complete the format. Quapaw pottery or several other possibilities are in the offing. Let us know your choice and send photos for inclusion to your editor.

Thank you,
John Baldwin

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks goes to Gordon Hart of Bluffton, Indiana. His dedicated camera work, encouragement, suggestions and outright abundance of involved manhours goes unequaled. Neither the Society nor any individual could afford to repay in monetary means for the time and materials Gordon has so freely given. We can only offer a humble thanks and hope we never lose a friend like this. Thanks, Gordon.

Your editor,
John Baldwin

Columbus, Indiana Meeting — April 12
Billy Bush, Marion Bush, and John Rice
Lincoln Center, Columbus, Indiana

John Baldwin's Fathers' Day Meeting — June 21
West Olive, Michigan — 6041 Lakeshore Drive
8 miles north of Holland, Michigan

Lincoln, Illinois Meeting — Sunday, July 12
Edwin S. Onken, George Hoke and Larry V. Bibber
511 Pekin Street, Lincoln, Illinois 62652
Tele. 217-732-6403

Owensboro, Kentucky Two-day Meeting — August 1 & 2
Executive Inn — Owensboro, Kentucky
For reservations: Out-of-state, 800-626-1936
Kentucky residents: 800-482-8480

AUTHENTICATION PROGRAM

The Genuine Indian Relic Society's Authentication program is now ten years old. Our permanent files of documented authentic artifacts have become invaluable for research and study purposes. We urge everyone to document outstanding and well known relics so that the true information can become a permanent and factual part of history. This program has proven to be the strongest and most effective vehicle against fakes. For more information write the chairman of the Authentication Committee.

A full authentication program will be enacted at the Columbus, Indiana spring meeting, 1981.

1981 SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Dues in the Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc., for the year 1981 are now due. Please send your check or money order payable to the Society in the sum of $10.00 to our Treasurer, Tommy Tucker, Jr., at P. O. Box 1256, Tunica, Mississippi 38676. We ask you to consider a $12.00 active or voting membership, with one time $10.00 initiating fee, or $25.00 or more sustaining membership in the Society. We also ask you to enlist a new member or give a subscription to a friend interested in Indian relics.

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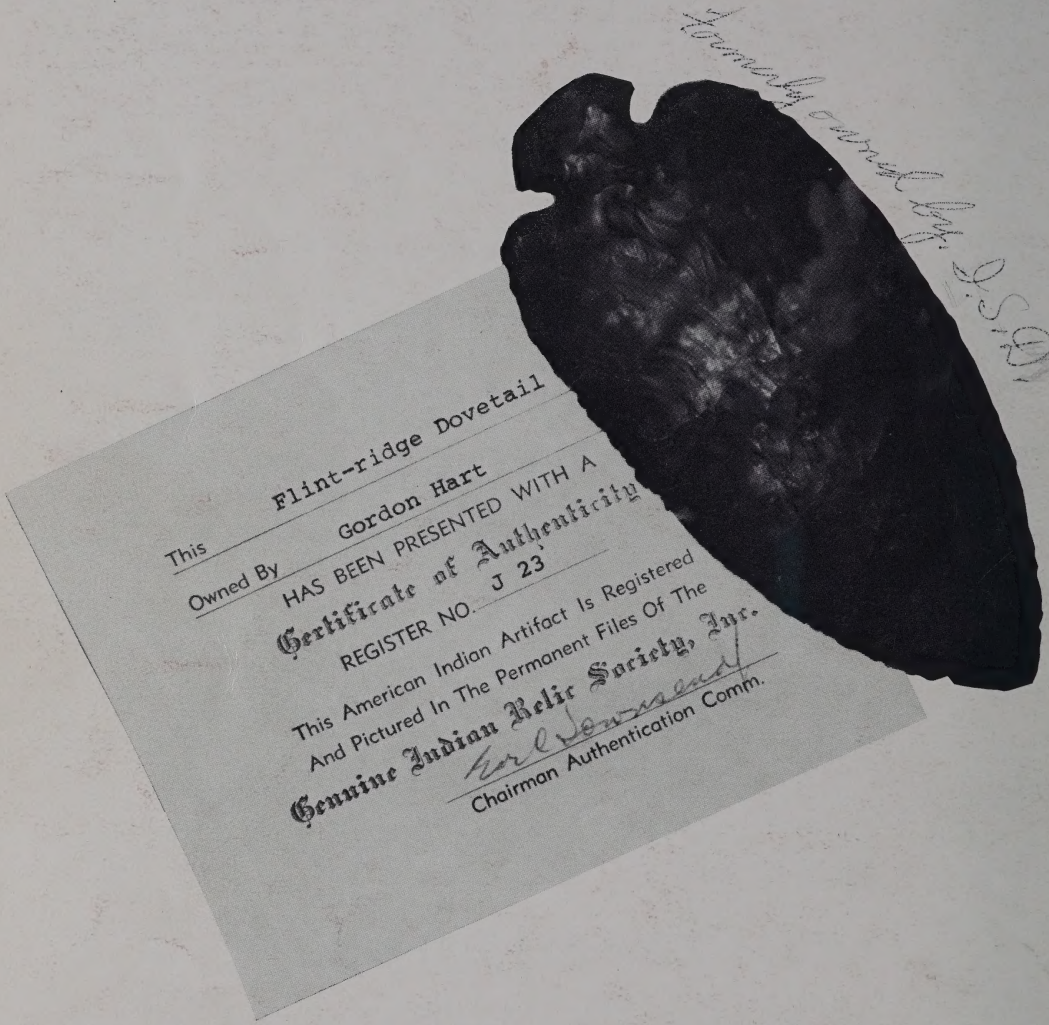
This Flint-ridge Dovetail
Owned By Gordon Hart
HAS BEEN PRESENTED WITH A
Certificate of Authenticity
REGISTER NO. J 23
This American Indian Artifact Is Registered
And Pictured In The Permanent Files Of The
Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.
Chairman Authentication Comm.